

COUNTRY INTELOFAX 14

Laerz Airfield

TOPIC

EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 22 April 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

2.5X1

1. Between 7 and 7:20 a.m. on 23 March, 6 MIG-15s or type 29 planes and 22 aircraft of an undetermined type were counted at Laerz airfield; an estimated 10 more planes were observed there. Vehicles [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] were seen. At 5:45 p.m. on 27 March, 19 planes flew over the field in formation. During the period from 23 through 28 March, there was intensive day and night flying at the installation.

2. Aircraft observed at the field between 2 and 3 p.m. on 25 March included 6 MiG-15s parked at the south side of the installation in addition to 14 MiG-15s, 3 biplanes, and 4 single-engine planes with double rudder assemblies at the western end of the runway. The aircraft dispersal area in the southeastern portion of the field was not visible. There was a 6/10 overcast at an altitude of about 600 meters and visibility was 3 or 4 km. About 3 p.m., a single-engine plane, which had a crew of two and was fitted with a radial engine, took off for a 40-minute flight. The pilot of the plane appeared to be in his initial stage of training. Three other planes of the same type took off at intervals of 15 minutes for a 30-minute flight. About 3:45, MiG-15 [] without auxiliary fuel tanks landed and was parked in the southwestern corner of the field.

3. Between 2 and 4 p.m. on 1 April, aircraft observed at the field included 6 swept-back jet fighters at the south side of the installation and 15 jet fighters south of the western end of the main runway, in addition to 6 single-engine planes and 2 biplanes with double rudder assemblies in the northern portion of the field. Not all of the planes parked at the field could be seen. At 2:15 p.m., a twin-engine plane with double rudder assembly landed. At 2:25 and 2:30 p.m., a single-engine plane fitted with radial engine landed. At 3:50 p.m., three MiG-15s [redacted] [redacted] taxied to the take-off point and took off at intervals of about three minutes. [redacted] flying by jet fighters continued until about 10 p.m.

4. During the night of 31 March and 1 April, there was a snow fall of 20 cm. The temperature during the day was about 5 degrees above zero. Except for a stretch of about 150 meters at its eastern end, the runway had been cleared of snow. Three caterpillar tractors and a tractor were employed

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25X1 [] to clear the snow from the remaining 150-meter stretch of the runway.

5. On 30 March, 38 MiG-15s, 4 single-engine, low-wing monoplanes fitted with radial engines, 3 biplanes, and 1 twin-engine low-wing monoplane fitted with a nose wheel and double rudder assembly were observed. During the period from 16 through 25 March, there was intensive flying every day by about 20 MiG-15s. Take-offs in groups of two, formation flying by five planes, and individual landings were practiced. During the period from 27 March through 3 April, four single-engine, low-wing monoplanes fitted with radial engines and one biplane were observed circling over the field. Between 6:30 and 10 p.m. during this period, MiG-15s practiced individual flying over the installation.

- 25X1 [] 6. In March, a total of 35 railroad tank cars arrived at the field. *

7. On 24 March, there was flying at the field by 12 jet planes. [] 25X1

[] The firing of aircraft weapons were heard. On 25 March, three planes practiced flying in line formation and firing. On 26 March, U-2s and two Yak-11s practiced flying. On 27 March, 13 jet fighters fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks were observed flying in formations of up to six planes. Between 5:30 and 8 p.m. some jet fighters made individual flights. Between 6:30 and 8:10 a.m. on 28 March, three jet fighters flew individually. Practice flights were made by six planes between 11:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. The firing of aircraft weapons was heard. On 29 March, 25 jet fighters, 4 U-2s, 6 Yak-11s and 2 twin-engine planes were observed at the installation. Between 5:30 p.m. on 1 April and 1 a.m. on 2 April, jet fighters flew individually. On 2 April, there was continuous flying by groups of four planes. [] 25X1

[] auxiliary fuel tanks were identified on the landing aircraft. There was individual flying after 6:30 p.m. On 3 April, there was local flying by eight jet planes. Type 29 plane [] 25X1

[] fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks and MiG-15s [] 25X1

[] were identified. Type 29 plane [] 25X1

[] was parked at the field with dismantled tail assembly. At 11:15 a.m. on 4 April, two Yak-11s took off heading west. On 5 April, 30 jet fighters, 4 U-2s and many Yak-11s were observed. [] 25X1

- 25X1 []
- 25X1 * [] Comment. It appears credible that the reported number of railroad tank cars arrived at the field in March. [] 25X1

22 such cars were observed arriving at the installation.

- 25X1 ** [] Comment. The report confirms previous information, according to which Laerz airfield is occupied by about 40 MiG-15s. Two fighter regiments and the headquarters of a fighter division are stationed there. Intensive flying at the field was also reported []

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